

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

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R 052000Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3855

INFO USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJ: UNIVERSITY SITUATION

REF: BA-7312, 7284

1. SUMMARY. BANFI WITHDRAWS HIS ACCEPTANCE AS PUIGGROS'S SUCCESSOR. ERNESTO VILLANUEVA, AN ALLY OF PUIGGROS, IS NAMED AS INTERVENTOR UNTIL OCT 12 WHEN PERON ASSUMES PRESIDENCY. SITUATION SHOULD REMAIN CALM UNTIL THEN. END SUMMARY.

2. SITUATION AT UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES CONTINUES IN SAME CONFUSED VEIN AS EACH DAY SEEMS TO BRING A NEW AND UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT. YESTERDAY ALBERTO FANFI, WHO WAS NAMED TO TEMPORARILY REPLACE PUIGGROS, WITHDREW HIS ACCEPTANCE OF THIS POSITION IN ORDER "TO PRESERVE THE UNITY OF THE PERONIST MOVEMENT". HE WAS IMMEDIATELY REPLACED BY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNIVERSITY, ERNESTO VILLANUEVA, AN ALLY OF PUIGGROS. VILLANUEVA WILL SERVE UNTIL OCT 12 WHEN PERON TAKES OFFICE. HE, ALONG WITH PUIGGROS, WAS ONE OF THE ARCHITECTS OF THE RECENTLY PROMULGATED UNIVERSITY POLICY WHICH PROHIBITS ANY PROFESSOR FROM WORKING FOR MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS WHILE ON UNIVERSITY PAYROLL. (UNDER THIS POLICY, LAW PROFESSORS

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WHO WERE ADVISORS TO FOREIGN FIRMS, OR ACCOUNTANTS WHO HAD

FOREIGN FIRMS IN THEIR ACCOUNTS, WERE SUMMARILY FIRED.)

3. EDUCATION MINISTER TAIANA MET WITH LEADERS OF PERONIST-UNIVERSITY YOUTH (JUPL LAST NIGHT. TAIANA, BACKED OFF FROM PREVIOUS STATEMENTS (SEE BA 7312), SAYING THE REQUEST FOR PUIGGROS' RESIGNATION WAS A RESULT OF A "GOVERNMENT DECISION", RATHER THAN "AT THE ORDERS OF PERON" AS HE HAD ORIGINALLY ASSERTED.

4. JUP LEADERS, AFTER MEETING WITH TAIANA, DECLARED THAT THEY HAD NO PROBLEMS WITH HIM AND INDICATED THEY WOULD MAINTAIN THE OCCUPATIONS (SEE BA 7284) UNTIL OCT 12. THEY ALSO HELD AN UNSPECTACULAR, PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF RECTOR'S OFFICE LAST NIGHT.

5. BALBIN, AFTER MEETING WITH PERON YESTERDAY (SEE SEPTTEL), WAS ASKED IF THEY HAD DISCUSSED UNIVERSITY SITUATION. HE SAID THEY HAD DISCUSSED IT IN GENERAL TERMS AND ADDED THAT RADICALES HAD SUPPORTED AN ORDERLY INTERVENTION OF THE UNIVERSITY BACK IN MAY BUT THIS IS NOT WHAT HAD HAPPENED SINCE THEN (I.E. UNDER PUIGGROS).

6. COMMENT. DESPITE TAIANA'S ATTEMPT TO INDICATE HE MISSPOKE, THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT IN ANYONE'S MIND THAT PERON WAS ORIGINATOR OF REQUEST FOR PUIGGROS RESIGNATION. SITUATION SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE CALM THROUGH OCT 12 AT WHICH TIME IT WOULD SEEM PERON WILL HAVE TO MAKE SOME HARD DECISIONS. WHAT THINGS SEEM, AS PAST EXPERIENCE INDICATES, IS NOT ALWAYS BEST INDICATOR OF WHAT WILL TRANSPIRE. FOR THE MOMENT, THEN, THE CRITICAL UNIVERSITY SITUATION IS NOT RESOLVED, BUT MERELY POSTPONED.
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